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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): DE-GUSSA AG [DE/DE]; Bennigsenplatz 1, 40474 Düsseldorf (DE).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): DRAUZ, Karlheinz [DE/DE]; Zur Marienruhe 13, 63579 Freigericht (DE). BUCHHOLZ, Stefan [DE/DE]; Am Wiesengrund 1, 63456 Hanau (DE). GRÖGER, Harald [DE/DE]; Akademiestrasse 31, 63450 Hanau (DE).
- (74) Common Representative: DEGUSSA AG; Intellectual Property Management, Patente und Marken, Standort Hanau, Postfach 13 45, 63403 Hanau (DE).
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PREPARING ENANTIOMER-ENRICHED ALPHA-HYDROXYCARBOXYLIC ACIDS AND AMIDES

(57) Abstract: The present invention describes an enzymatic process for preparing enantiomer-enriched  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acids and amides which comprises, in one step, the conversion of a carbonyl compound to the corresponding acid/amides via the intermediate stage of a cyanohydrin. The invention also provides a reaction system operating in such a way and a whole-cell catalyst that is advantageous for use for this reaction.



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